## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for regulating pressure applied during a medical procedure, comprising:

an inelastic housing enclosing an inner volume, the housing having a first and second end wherein the housing comprises a cylindrical inelastic housing enclosing the inner volume and a plunger for applying pressure to the inner volume, said plunger being slidably disposed within said cylindrical inelastic housing;

an aperture in the housing for conveying pressure from the housing during the medical procedure; and

a pressure-operated valve coupled between the inner volume of the housing and a space outside of the inner volume of the housing, in fluid communication with the inner volume of the housing for allowing pressure to escape from the inner volume of the housing through the valve when pressure in the housing exceeds a threshold, whereby fluid pressure in the inner housing actuates the valve to release pressure from within the inner volume of the housing, wherein the pressure-operated valve is provided with discrete threshold setting features, said discrete threshold setting features being selectable by a user to select a discrete, pre-set threshold pressure level from a plurality of different discrete pre-set threshold pressure levels; and wherein threshold pressure levels intermediate of two of any of said discrete, pre-set threshold pressure levels cannot be selected..

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pressure-operated valve comprises:

an opening in the housing;

a plunger disposed within the inner volume of the housing;

a spring disposed within the inner volume of the housing, wherein the spring is positioned between the second end of the housing and the plunger, wherein the plunger in a rest position is between the opening and the aperture, and wherein as fluid is inserted into the inner volume of the housing via

the aperture, increased pressure within the inner volume of the housing moves the plunger toward the opening.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the opening is positioned in a side of the housing providing access to the inner volume of the housing, wherein at normal pressure the opening is closer to the second end than the plunger and wherein as pressure within the inner volume of the housing increases so as to move the plunger past the opening, the pressure within the inner housing is released through the opening.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said discrete threshold setting features comprise a plurality of openings positioned along the housing, and further comprising a selector member movably mounted relative to the plurality of openings and positionable so as to selectively open one and block others of the plurality of openings.

19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pressure-operated valve is adapted to release negative pressure from the housing when the negative pressure exceeds the threshold, and wherein the threshold is a maximum negative pressure.

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the pressure operated valve comprises a housing having an aperture communicated with the element, a plunger disposed in the housing and having an opening passing therethrough, and a release-plunger positioned in the opening, the release plunger being adapted to be pushed away from the plunger upon movement of the plunger toward the aperture beyond a threshold position whereby negative pressure is released wherein the plunger reduces the threshold position.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for regulating pressure applied during a medical procedure, comprising:

a housing enclosing an inner volume for conveying a pressurized fluid, the housing comprising a substantially inelastic housing enclosing the inner volume and a plunger movable within the inelastic housing for applying pressure to the inner volume; and

a pressure-operated-valve in fluid communication with the inner volume of the housing and adapted to release pressure from the inner volume when fluid pressure in the inner volume is exerted on the pressure operated valve above a threshold fluid pressure level, wherein the pressure-operated valve is provided with a plurality of openings and a selector member positionable by a user, relative to said plurality of openings, to select the threshold fluid pressure level.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the threshold is set by a spring exerting a force which must be overcome to exceed the threshold, and further comprising a movable member which can be positioned between at least two different positions corresponding to different forces of the spring which must be overcome to exceed the threshold.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the threshold is set by a spring exerting a force which must be overcome to exceed the threshold, and further comprising a movable member which can be positioned between at least two different positions corresponding to different forces of the spring which must be overcome to exceed the threshold.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the movable member only causes pressure to be released once the force is overcome.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the movable member only causes pressure to be released once the force is overcome.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for regulating pressure applied during a medical procedure, comprising:

an inelastic housing enclosing an inner volume, the housing having a first and second end wherein the housing comprises a cylindrical inelastic housing enclosing the inner volume and a plunger for applying pressure to the inner volume;

an aperture in the housing for conveying pressure from the housing during the medical procedure; and

a pressure-operated valve coupled between the inner volume of the housing and a space outside

of the inner volume of the housing for allowing pressure to escape from the inner volume of the housing through the valve when pressure in the housing exceeds a threshold, whereby the valve releases pressure from within the inner volume of the housing, wherein the pressure-operated valve is adapted to allow selection of the threshold, during use, from a plurality of different thresholds, and wherein a plurality of openings are positioned along the housing, said apparatus further comprising a selector member movably mounted relative to the plurality of openings and positionable so as to selectively open one and block others of the plurality of openings.

28. (New) An apparatus for regulating pressure applied during a medical procedure, comprising:

an inelastic housing enclosing an inner volume, the housing having a first and second end wherein the housing comprises a cylindrical inelastic housing enclosing the inner volume and a plunger for applying pressure to the inner volume;

an aperture in the housing for conveying pressure from the housing during the medical procedure; and

a pressure-operated valve coupled between the inner volume of the housing and a space outside of the inner volume of the housing, in fluid communication with the inner volume of the housing for allowing pressure to escape from the inner volume of the housing through the valve when pressure in the housing exceeds a threshold, whereby fluid pressure in the inner housing actuates the valve to release pressure from within the inner volume of the housing, wherein the pressure-operated valve is provided with discrete threshold setting features, said discrete threshold setting features being selectable by a user to select a discrete, pre-set threshold pressure level from a plurality of different discrete pre-set threshold pressure levels, wherein said discrete threshold setting features comprise a plurality of openings positioned along the housing, and further comprising a selector member movably mounted relative to the plurality of openings and positionable so as to selectively open one and block others of the plurality of openings.